

Malaysia

Truly Asia



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Selamat Datang

Fascinating Malaysia beckons all: the seasoned traveller as well as the uninitiated seeking to discover for the first time, its much publicised charms. Selamat Datang! It means



A Famosa



National flower - Hibiscus

'welcome' in Bahasa Melayu, the national language. This greeting that's written on the faces, expressed in the gestures and exhibited in the unrestrained friendliness of its people reflect the heartwarming charm and genuine hospitality of the country.

This is merely a prologue to its more alluring attractions. Malaysia is steeped in interesting cultural traditions - the elaborate festivities, the sartorial splendours, unique

arts and crafts, dance forms, food and architecture. Beyond this captivating facade of her multiracial make-up, Malaysia is also endowed with an abundance of other assets that have attracted an increasing number of tourists to its shores.

Be ready to step back millions of years in time or usher

yourself into her heightening modernity. Shutterbugs and nature freaks can seek refuge in its natural paradise of lush tropical greenery, wooded mountain ridges, cascading rapids and icy cold waterfalls. The primeval rainforests, untouched for about 130 million years, are home to numerous

species of birds and wildlife. The flora is rich. And it really is a mesmerising sight taking in the views of virgin forests and their somnolent canopies stretching seamlessly to misty tops of fabled mountains. The setting is perfect for bird-watching,



The 'sirih junjung' welcome ceremony





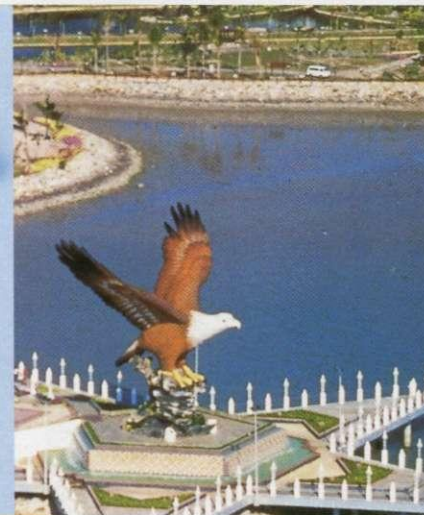
River safaris are a fascinating way to discover Sarawak

exotic blend of the old and new. In the cities, the signs of modernity and technological progress is evident in the intelligent skyscrapers, high speed urban transportation, advanced telecommunication systems and information technology revolution. Yet, a short drive away from the cities brings one to see the country at its rustic best.

Visualise scattered wooden houses with smoke seeping out and

engulfing the air with a whiff of the lazy fragrance of wood-fire and the aroma of local home cooking. The lush carpets of padi fields, local children reeling or scooping up fish for the day from the canals, the rolling plains of rubber estates and the pleasant green plantations of oil palm are all simply breathtaking.

When it comes to accommodation visitors are spoilt for choice as there is a wide range



The majestic Dataran lang (Eagle Square) in Langkawi



Relish the challenge of whitewater rafting at the Padas River

stretches of beaches. Of Malaysia's one thousand and seven islands, 38 of them have been declared as marine parks. The islands and the surrounding seas are ideal for diving, snorkelling, swimming, yachting, wind-surfing, boating, game fishing and underwater photography.

Malaysia presents an



The beating of rebana ubi or giant drums

trekking, white-water rafting, cave exploration, mountain climbing and camping.

Lovers of the sun, sea and underwater adventure will find their dream holiday in Malaysia fulfilled. Both the western and eastern shores of Peninsular Malaysia as well as Sabah and Sarawak offer endless



Kuala Lumpur skyline by night



Seaside apartment-style accommodation

of hotels, chalets, resorts and home-stay facilities catering to various tastes and budgets. In the cities, Malaysia's rich array of local, oriental, as well as western and continental foods is available throughout the day. Entertainment and recreational activities such as golfing are easily available. Or immerse yourself in a shopping adventure. Malaysia's relatively low cost of living and the wide array of choices for shopping have made it a shoppers' haven and value for money destination.

Let your dream holiday come true in Fascinating Malaysia.

Kuala Lumpur

Kuala Lumpur, meaning a muddy confluence, had its origins as a shanty mining outpost for the tin trade in the 1800's at the confluence of the Gombak and Klang Rivers. Today, KL as it is popularly known, is a bustling metropolis, the federal capital of Malaysia and is the principal centre

Modern transportation that include the Light Rail Transit system and a Rapid Transit monorail system, currently under construction, mean getting around is a breeze. However, despite its transformation into an ultra-modern city, KL still retains its old world charm depicted in the majestic buildings of the colonial era, quaint pre-war shop-houses and the way business is conducted.

More conspicuous is its 'Garden City' ambience, apparent the moment one lands in the city. At night, the streets



The imposing Petronas Twin Towers

of commerce, politics, entertainment and international activities. The site of the original settlement draws a steady stream of tourists, largely to the adjacent Sultan Abdul Samad Building and the Merdeka Square where the British flag was lowered for the last time on August 31, 1957 and replaced by the new Malaysian flag.

The city's skyline is rapidly changing and presently boasts of the world's tallest building, the magnificent Petronas Twin Towers standing at 452 m as well as the Menara Kuala Lumpur, the world's fourth tallest.



National Monument



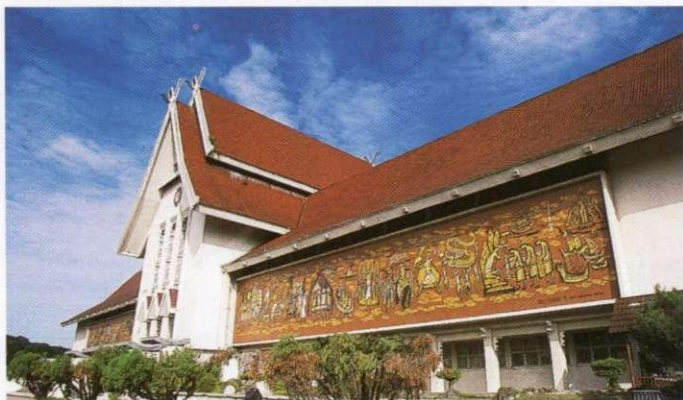
Sultan Abdul Samad Building



Masjid Jamek



National Theatre, Istana Budaya



National Museum



Kuala Lumpur Railway Station

adorned with trees and decorative shrubs, as well as the buildings are colourfully lit to give the city a unique dazzle. The Lake Gardens, home to the Hibiscus and Orchid Gardens as well as the Bird,



National Zoo

Deer and Butterfly Parks, is just one of KL's many delights. For a sojourn in antiquity, the National Museum is a must but there are other museums with specific themes as well.

The city is also an excellent hunting ground for shopping buffs. Well-known establishments located along Jalan Bukit Bintang, Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman and Jalan Ampang as well as The Mall, Central Market and KL's Chinatown tantalise visitors with their sheer variety of products and the lure of attractive prices. These areas also throb with the excitement of nightlife and evening entertainment. Visit the National Theatre or the Dewan Filharmonik Petronas for an evening

of local and western music or cultural performances. Night golfing is also available around the city. A tempting variety of delectable local and foreign cuisine can be enjoyed at any time of the day. Explore the numerous food courts, fine restaurants and other eateries to discover the gastronomic delights of the city.



Central Market - a one-stop centre for local arts and crafts



Menara Kuala Lumpur - 'jewel' in the sky

Perlis

Perlis, the country's smallest state, lies at the north-western corner of the Malay Peninsula between the state of Kedah and neighbouring Thailand. The state's main appeal is its refreshing serenity; a respite from the hustle and bustle of citylife.

Rice farming is a principal economic activity here. The green expanse of the rice fields, thatched-roof huts and local farmers tending to their plots are all part of the state's rustic charm. The villages are quaint and age-old customs prevail. Due to the proximity and historical links with Thailand



The stunning sight of stalactites and stalagmites inside Gua Kelam



Gunung Medan accentuates the State's rustic charm



The fishing community of Kuala Perlis

the people here have inherited some Thai traditions and its language. This is evident in the border town of

Padang Besar, where the blending of local Malay and Thai elements give the town a unique flavour. Shopping for local products is a popular activity with visitors to the town.

Places of interest include a 370-m long limestone cave, Gua Kelam at Kaki Bukit, Wang Kelian in the vicinity and the Snake Farm at Sungai Batu Pahat. Kuala Perlis is an attractive fishing

town, popular for its sea food and local cuisine. This town is a transit point to the famed Pulau Langkawi.



The countryside in Perlis is refreshingly serene



Istana Arau, the State Ruler's official residence



Kuala Perlis Jetty-take-off point to Langkawi

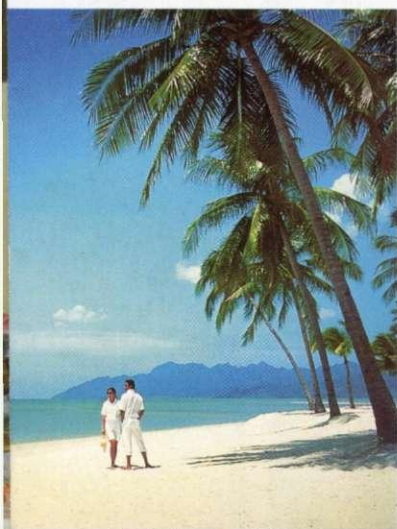
Kangar, the capital town, is the seat of the state government. About 6 km away is the scenic limestone outcrop of Gunung Medan which is a favourite spot for picnickers. Arau, the Royal Town is the residence of the State's Ruler.

Kedah

Kedah, together with the neighbouring state of Perlis are traditionally known as the 'Rice Bowl of Malaysia'. Vast stretches of rice fields dominate Kedah's panoramic landscape. Alor Setar, its capital, is home to many old buildings which still stand in their original form together with other relics of the past. Of interest is the Balai Besar, an impressive wooden



Rolling padi fields



One of Langkawi's numerous pristine beaches



The majestic Dataran Lang (Eagle Square) in Langkawi

edifice built in 1898. It is frequently used for state and royal functions. The Zahir Mosque, another outstanding landmark built in 1912, is one of the most beautiful mosques in the country. The Royal Museum, a fine example of local architecture, houses a veritable collection of Kedah's royal and cultural heritage.

Other attractions in Alor Setar include the birthplace of Dato' Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia and the Pekan

Rabu bazaar. Here one can shop for a variety of local wares and handicrafts as well as sample traditional fares like dodol, a popular Malay sweetmeat. The Alor Setar Tower, Kedah's most recent landmark provides a breathtaking view of the town and its surroundings. A short drive from Alor Setar brings one to the border town of Bukit Kayu Hitam, a duty-free centre.

This state is one of the oldest states in the country. Relics un-

covered at the Bujang Valley, at the foothills of Gunung Jerai, Kedah's hill resort, point to Hindu-

Buddhist influence dating back to the fourth century A.D. The findings are now displayed in the



Underwater World in Langkawi



Lembah Bujang

Archeological Museum at the site and include Chinese porcelain and gemstones from the Middle East. Further south, Kedah has a good seaside picnic spot at Pantai Merdeka. For those in search of solitude and relaxation the scenic Pedu Lake provides a worthwhile retreat.

Kedah's most famous destination is Langkawi, known the world over for its idyllic setting, legends and myths. Langkawi comprises a group of 99 islands, each with its own natural appeal. Among the prominent ones are Pulau Dayang Bunting (Isle of the Pregnant Maiden), Pulau Singa Besar, a wildlife sanctuary, Pulau Payar, a marine park and Pulau Beras Basah (Isle of Wet Rice), a popular spot for swimming. Langkawi is a free port which offers plenty of good buys.



Pedu Lake

Kuah, its main town, is a shopping haven. The island is fast gaining a reputation as a popular venue for international exhibitions and conferences. It is also the venue for the exciting Langkawi International Maritime and Air Show (LIMA). Other points of interest are the Mahsuri Mausoleum, Air Hangat hot springs, Galeria Perdana, Eagle's Square, Seven Wells, Underwater World, a crocodile farm and the Tanjung Rhu Beach.



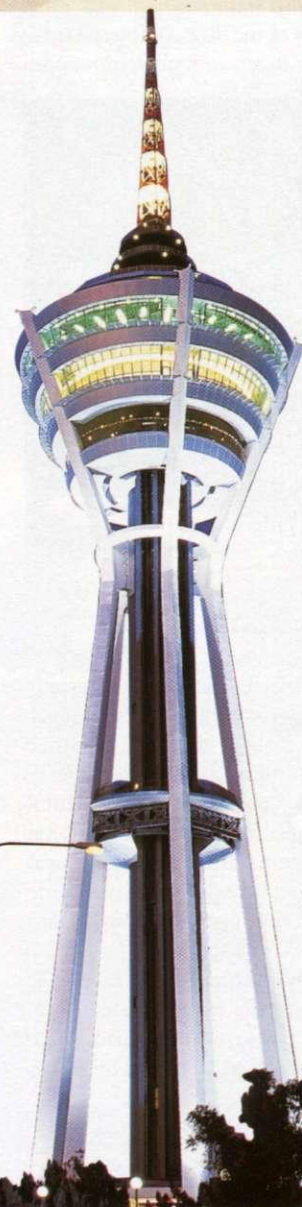
Pulau Singa Besar - Wildlife Sanctuary



Taman Buaya Langkawi (Crocodile Farm)



A store at the Pekan Rabu bazaar



Penang

From its establishment as the first British trading post in the Far East in 1786, Penang is today a bustling city with a unique blend of the East and West. This is reflected in its

carvings and richly ornamented beams of the finest wood. This unique architectural heritage gives Georgetown its charming appeal and distinctive character. Trendy

sports. Resorts of international standards have mushroomed along its beaches offering full facilities for rest and recreation. Other established tourist spots on the



Penang Bridge links the mainland to the 'Pearl of the Orient'

heritage buildings as well as in the lifestyles, food and customs of the local people.

Georgetown, named after King George III of England, is the seat of the state's administration as well as the centre for commerce, education, social activities and entertainment. Among the places of interest in this city are Khoo Kongsi, Kapitan Keling Mosque, Sri Mariamman Temple, Fort Cornwallis and Wat Chaiya Mangkalaram, a Buddhist temple with one of the world's longest reclining statues of Buddha. The Khoo Kongsi, an impressive clan house built by master craftsmen from China features a magnificent hall embellished with intricate

restaurants, sidewalk cafes, "nasi kandar" stalls, discotheques, night markets, department stores and quaint pre-war shops together with



Lebuhraya pre-war shophouses

a host of other places all combine to give the city its lively and colourful character. Traditionally known as the 'Pearl of the Orient', Penang owes much of its fame to its fine beaches which are ideal for all types of water



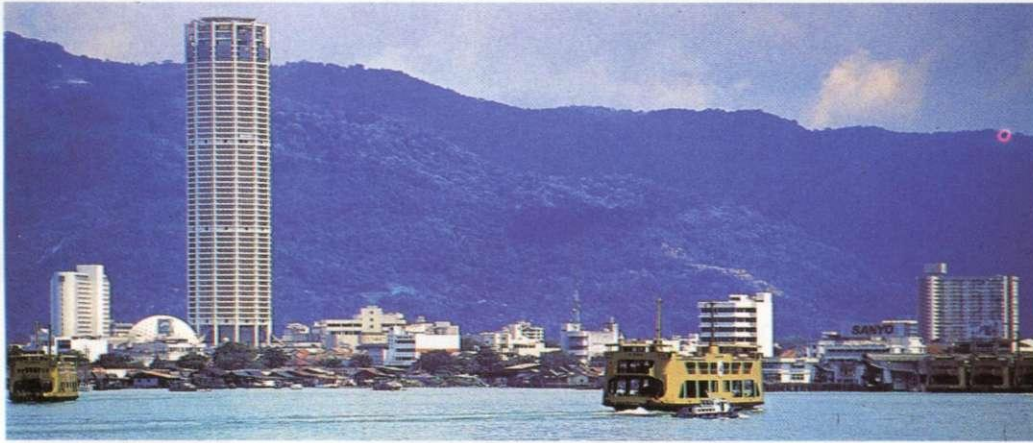
Durian - the king of fruits



Kapitan Keling Mosque



Sea sports



Ferry services from the mainland to the island

island are Penang Hill, Kek Lok Si temple, Butterfly Farm, Botanical Gardens, Snake Temple and the Penang Bird Park on the mainland. A characteristic sight in Penang is its gaily decorated trishaws which offer tourists a fun way of taking in the island's sights at a leisurely pace. For an exhilarating experience, cross over to the mainland by the Penang Bridge, one of Asia's longest or experience the romance of travelling on its famous ferry, once the only link with the mainland.

Take a refreshing drive up forest clad hills to enjoy the scenic beauty of the island. On your way back, stop

at Balik Pulau and sample its highly acclaimed durians and nutmegs.



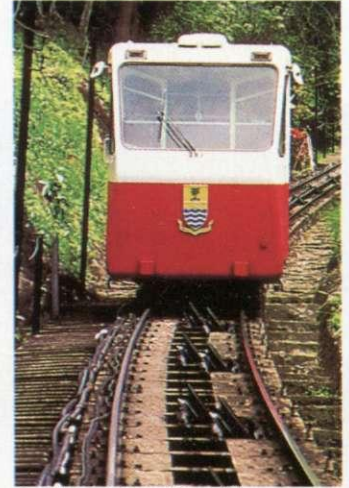
Batu Ferringhi has it all - exotic beaches, the sun, sea and fun



A local favourite - nasi daun pisang (banana leaf rice)



The magnificent Khoo Kongsi



Funicular train to the top of Penang Hill



Mouth-watering kuih (local cakes)

Perak

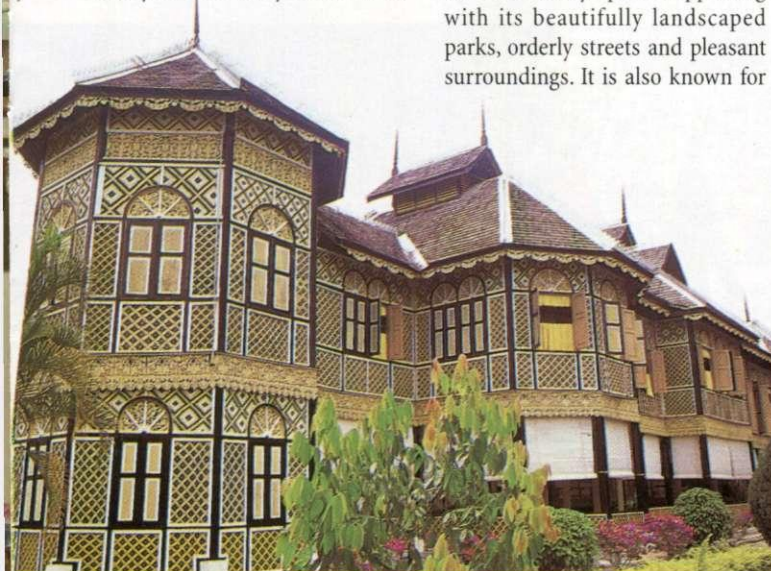
Perak takes its name from the silvery colour of the rich tin deposits for which it is renowned. This mineral featured prominently in the history and economy of the state.

The saga of tin-mining aside, modern-day Perak is a vibrant state and has numerous options for those willing to traverse its over 21,000 sq km of territory. Ipoh is appealing with its beautifully landscaped parks, orderly streets and pleasant surroundings. It is also known for

district office. Just 15 km south of this town is the site of a unique cottage industry producing Perak's well known earthenware, Labu Sayong. Taiping, 40 km north, is home to the country's oldest museum and the cool hill resort of Bukit Larut (Maxwell Hill). Its scenic



annually to its lovely beaches, reputed to be among the best in the world. Bird lovers should head north for the fascinating Kuala Gula Bird Sanctuary where over 100 species of birds can be sighted.

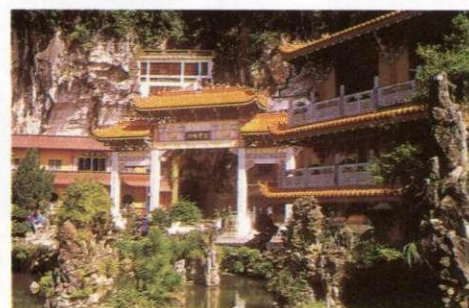


The Perak Royal Museum at Bukit Chandan was once a palace

The growth of its major towns and the rise of numerous wealthy millionaires in bygone years can be attributed to tin. Although tin-

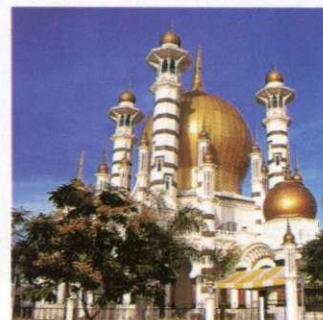
its many fruit stalls selling the state's famous Tambun pomelos and groundnuts. Guava is also commercially cultivated, mostly on what was once mining land. Another appealing characteristic of Perak is the imposing beauty of its limestone hills. Set within these hills are two well-known cave temples, Sam Poh Tong and Perak Tong.

Kuala Kangsar, the royal town of Perak features many old buildings and structures of historical value such as the Ubudiah Mosque and the Iskandariah Palace. Here, the last surviving rubber tree of the original batch that was brought from London's Kew Gardens in 1877 by H.N. Ridley, can be seen at the

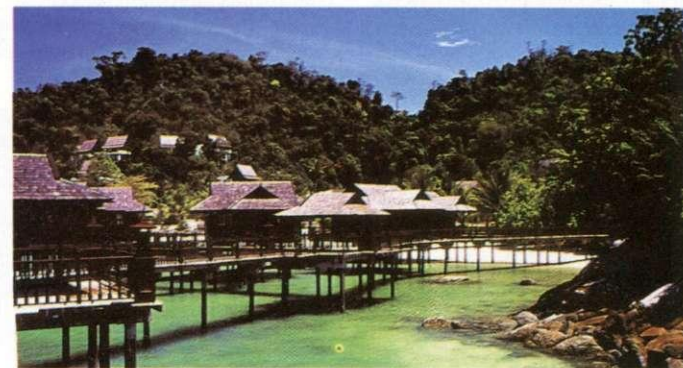


The Sam Poh Tong - a cave temple set within limestone hills near Ipoh

Lake Gardens and the Taiping Zoo are favourites with locals and visitors alike. There are several other points of interest that should not be missed. One of these is Kellie's Castle in Batu Gajah. It was built by a wealthy Scottish rubber planter, William Kellie Smith. Lovers of history can visit the historical site of Pasir Salak, further west of Batu Gajah. Pangkor, Perak's island in the sun draws throngs of visitors



Ubudiah Mosque



An idyllic resort - Pangkor Laut Resort



Kellie's Castle

mining has ceased to be a major industrial activity, visitors can still catch a glimpse of Perak's tin-mining history at the Geological Museum in Ipoh, its capital city.

Selangor

Selangor is centrally located on the west coast of Peninsular Malaysia and is one of the most prosperous and developed states in the country. Most tourists to Malaysia will arrive in Selangor at the new KL International Airport (KLIA) at Sepang designed as an 'airport within a forest'. Kuala Lumpur was the capital of Selangor until it was made the federal capital in 1974.

The state's appeal lies in its wide range of attractions: natural, man-made, historical and

days. Shah Alam, a well-planned city and the capital of Selangor, is home to the country's first agro-forestry park at Bukit Cahaya. The Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah

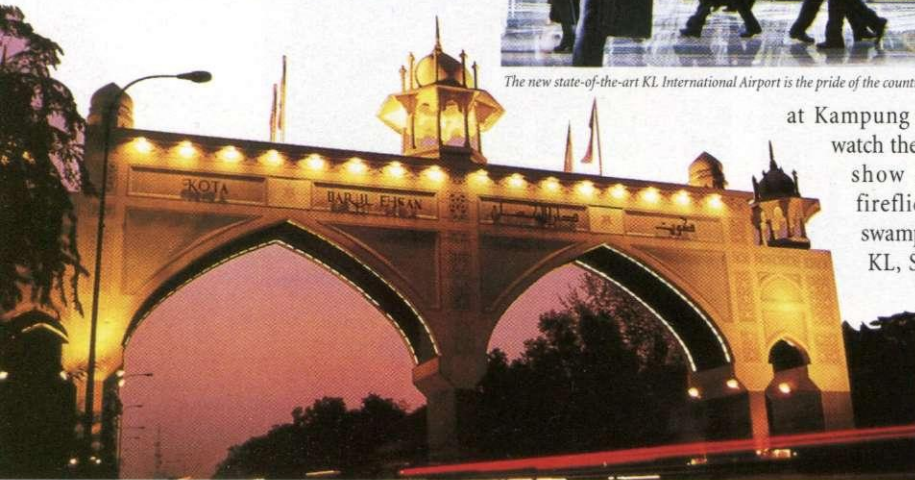
Park, a sanctuary for a myriad of migratory birds is the perfect place for bird-watching and outdoor activities like camping and jungle trekking. A few kilometres away



The new state-of-the-art KL International Airport is the pride of the country



The Sultan Salahuddin State Mosque



This magnificent arch marks the boundary of Kuala Lumpur and Selangor

cultural. Most of these attractions are within close proximity to KL and can be covered within a few

Mosque in the heart of Shah Alam is an architectural masterpiece.

The Kuala Selangor Nature

at Kampung Kuantan one can watch the spectacular 'light' show of thousands of fireflies in a mangrove swamp at dusk. Closer to KL, Selangor's premier theme park, the Sunway Lagoon, offers world-class recreational facilities for hours of family fun and excitement. The

impressive Mines Resort City, once the location of the world's largest open-cast tin mine is another major attraction providing a comprehensive range of facilities for recreation, entertainment, shopping and business.

The Batu Caves, a well-known Hindu shrine located in a huge limestone outcrop outside KL, attracts a daily stream of visitors as well as thousands of devotees during the annual Thaipusam festival. The Forest Research Institute of Malaysia in Kepong

provides the uninitiated an educational experience and a breathtaking view of a typical Malaysian forest from its canopy walkway amid the tree tops.



The Malaysia Agricultural Park



The Mines Wonderland, a premier theme park in the country



Visitors and worshippers alike cannot resist climbing up the Batu Caves

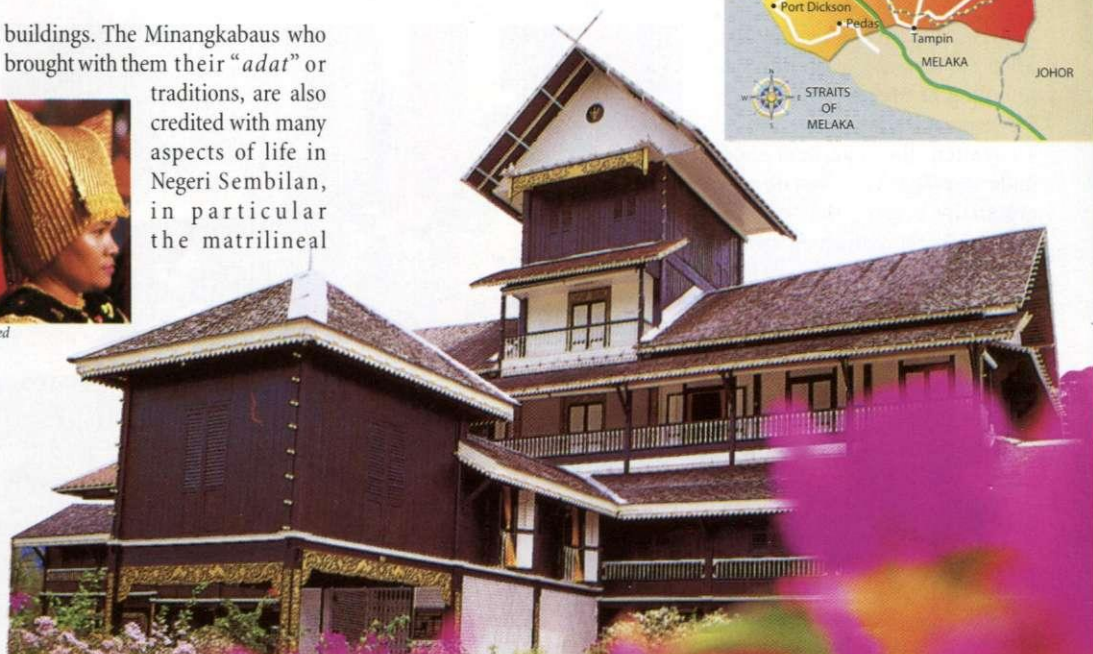
Negeri Sembilan

Negeri Sembilan, translated literally as "nine states", is so called because it once consisted of nine separate districts, each ruled by a Malay chieftain. Seremban, its capital is well-connected by road and rail to Kuala Lumpur, 50 km away. It houses a cultural handicraft complex, the State Museum, the State Mosque and the Lake Gardens.



Traditional buffalo horn-shaped headgear of the Minangkabau

buildings. The Minangkabau who brought with them their "adat" or traditions, are also credited with many aspects of life in Negeri Sembilan, in particular the matrilineal

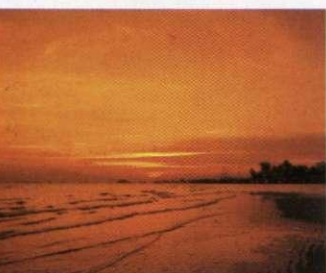


The Sri Menanti Palace is a masterpiece of Minangkabau architecture

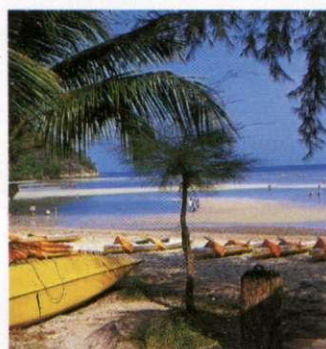
kinship system. This system is evident until today especially in the marriage customs, ownership of

Built at the turn of the century by two local craftsmen, the wooden palace took six years to complete

Negeri Sembilan has a popular beach at Port Dickson, on the shores of the Straits of Melaka. This resort town with its miles of golden beaches and a wide range of accommodation is a favourite 'playground' for the city dwellers of KL and Singapore as well as the neighbouring towns.



A beautiful sunset at Port Dickson



Port Dickson is a favourite week-end retreat for visitors and locals alike

The state is often identified with the pervasive influence of Minangkabau migrants from Sumatra as seen in the unique horn-shaped roofs of many of its



Seaside apartment-style accommodation

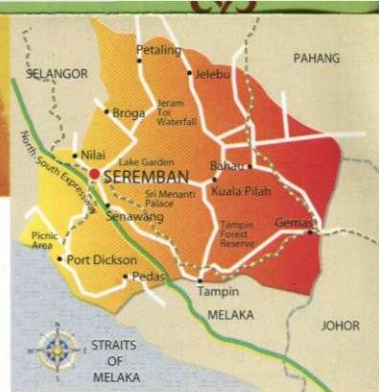
property and dance forms.

The Sri Menanti Palace, converted to the Royal Museum in 1992, is a classic showcase of Minangkabau structure and design.

and is an architectural wonder as no screws or nails were used in its construction. Elsewhere, the pretty village settings are reminiscent of the Minangkabau influence.



Water scooters provide sheer excitement



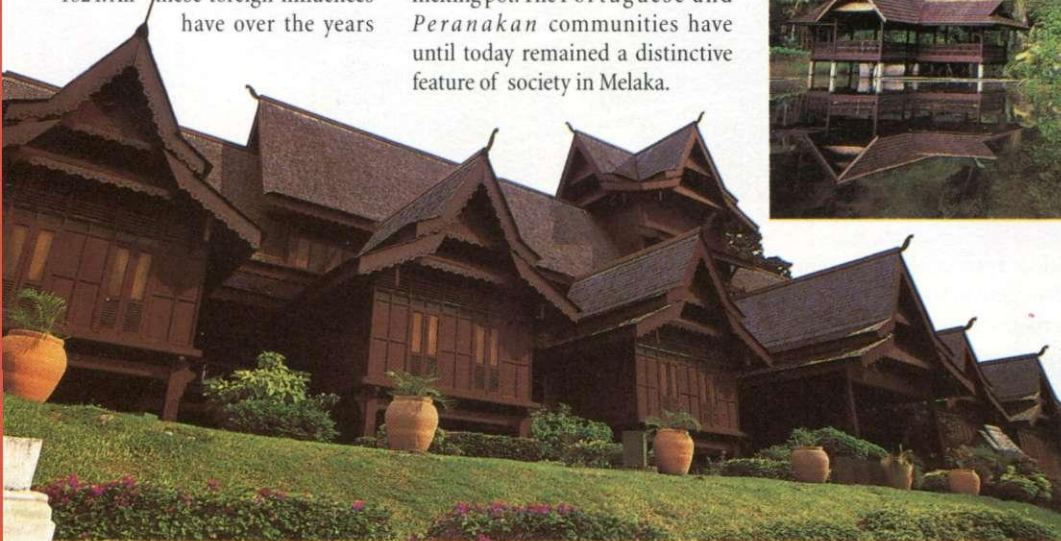
Melaka

It is traditionally believed that the history of Malaysia began with the founding of Melaka in 1400 by Parameswara, a Sumatran prince. Thereafter, the state flourished under the Melaka Sultanate and eventually became the region's largest emporium attracting traders from as far as China, India, Arabia and Europe. Melaka came under successive colonial eras when it was conquered by the Portuguese in 1511, followed by Dutch rule in 1641 before the British took over in 1824. All these foreign influences have over the years



The Melaka Baba-Nyonya Heritage Museum

transformed the state into a cultural melting pot. The Portuguese and *Peranakan* communities have until today remained a distinctive feature of society in Melaka.



The Cultural Museum



The Mini ASEAN Village at Ayer Keroh



A Baba-Nyonya House with its intricately carved windows



In the light of its rich historical past, Melaka has been officially declared the 'Historical City of Malaysia'. Famous historical sites in the state



Air Keroh

include the A Famosa, Stadthuys, St. Paul's Church, St. John's Fort and the Hang Tuah and Hang Jebat mausoleums. The Cultural Museum, an elaborate reconstruction of the ancient palace of the Melaka Sultanate, provides fascinating insights into Melaka's glorious past.



Hang Tuah's Well

The nightly Light and Sound Show at "Padang Pahlawan" (Warriors' Field) re-enacts in dramatic fashion, the state's historical past.



Melaka river cruise

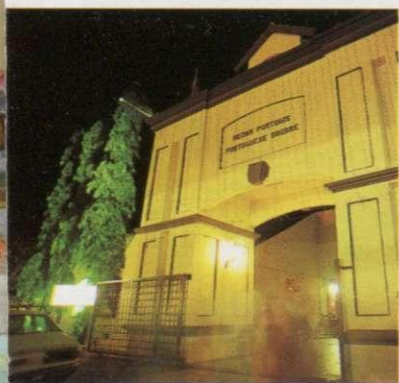


St. Paul's Church

Antique lovers will find Jonker Street with its myriad of shops to be an intriguing place to hunt and bargain for treasures of the past. Beyond the appeal of its historical past, Melaka offers a wide range of sights and leisure activities for a truly worthwhile holiday. Pulau Besar and Pulau Upeh are two popular island retreats easily

accessible from Melaka. While in Melaka, enjoy an exciting experience of the city on a trishaw or take a bullock cart ride for the fun of it. Sample the mouth-watering culinary mix of *nyonya* and Portuguese dishes and other local delicacies. Ayer Keroh, just outside the city of Melaka, is situated in a vast forest reserve, and is a major

tourist recreational spot. Attractions here include the Melaka Zoo, Mini Malaysia, Mini ASEAN, a golf resort, hotels, a butterfly farm and a crocodile farm.



Portuguese Settlement



The A Famosa' fortress



Fine examples of Dutch architecture, Stadthuys and Christ Church



St. Francis Xavier's Church

Johor

Johor is the southern gateway into Peninsular Malaysia and is linked to Singapore by road and rail. Its proximity to Singapore has made it a popular destination among Singaporeans as well as other international tourists visiting the island republic. It is the only state in the country that boasts of a coastline

When in Johor Bahru, the capital of the state, take time off to tour the city or shop around. Interesting spots are the Royal Museum, the Sultan Abu Bakar Mosque, the Grand Palace, the Johor Art Gallery, the Mawar Handicraft Centre and Dataran Bandaraya built in 1994 to commemorate Johor Bahru's declaration as a city.



The Sultan Abu Bakar Mosque is one of the most beautiful mosques in the country

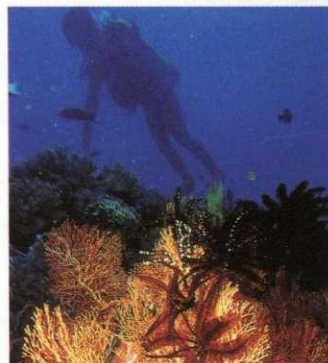
stretching along the Straits of Melaka to the South China Sea. The state is endowed with an abundance of natural attractions that provide numerous opportunities for a wide range of outdoor recreational and leisure activities.

Souvenir and handicraft stores and modern shopping complexes all offer a multitude of items at reasonable prices.

Those who yearn for jungle adventures will find the Endau Rompin National Park in the north



The Kota Tinggi Waterfalls is a popular picnic spot



The islands off Johor's eastern coastline are excellent for snorkelling and scuba-diving

eastern border of the state to be a haven for unspoilt nature.

The park is home to many unique and endemic varieties of tropical plants and visitors have reported occasional wildlife sightings. The popular Kota Tinggi waterfalls, 56 km north of Johor

Bahru is a refreshing spot for picnics. A drive through the large tracts of oil palm and coffee plantations in Kluang makes a pleasant and eye-opening experience. Head for Kukup, a picturesque fishing village on the southwest coast and visit its fascinating fish farms. Round off your trip by stopping at the town to taste the fresh and delicious seafood offerings. Or visit the mangrove swamps of Tanjung Piai to see exotic aquatic life.

Johor's premier beach resort is at Desaru, a magnificent



25 km stretch of sandy beach flanking the South China Sea. The resort has three hotels and is just the right place to unwind and indulge in a host of carefree activities such as



The stately Grand Palace built in 1860 is now the Royal Museum

fishing, snorkelling, windsurfing, boating, canoeing, swimming and jungle-trekking. Off Johor's eastern coast, amid the clear blue waters of the South China Sea are the islands of Pulau Rawa, Pulau Sibul, Pulau Aur, Pulau Besar and Pulau Pemanggil. All these idyllic islands have



Pulau Aur, one of Johor's offshore islands

accommodation and offer excellent scuba diving, snorkelling, windsurfing, sailing and other activities.

Pahang

With a land mass spread over 35,000 sq km, Pahang is the largest state in Peninsular Malaysia. Much of the state is still covered by extensive rainforests. The jungles in Taman Negara, the country's most well-known national park is

more adventurous, white-water rafting, trekking, camping, fishing and a host of other jungle activities make their stay in Taman Negara an exotic holiday in the Malaysian jungles.

Tasek Bera and Tasik Cini in the



industries. A range of hotel and chalet accommodation is available to visitors. Fraser's Hill which is only about 100 km from Kuala Lumpur, is another cool hill resort dotted with quaint and colonial holiday bungalows. It is acknowledged as a haven for bird-watching enthusiasts. Genting Highlands is an hour by road from



A fishing settlement in Cherating

the site of Asia's first Club Mediterranee, Teluk Chempedak, Beserah and Balok. Tioman Island, acknowledged as one of the world's

estimated by scientists to be about 130 million years old. The park is home to a myriad of flora and fauna and is high on the itinerary of

southern sector of Pahang are two major natural freshwater bodies worth a visit. Observe the intriguing way of life of the Semelai aborigines in the jungles of Tasik Bera or participate in jungle-trekking and exciting river safari activities. Apart from jungle adventures, Pahang offers fabulous resorts for those seeking a cool retreat to the hills. Cameron Highlands, with its cool climate is home to Malaysia's tea, vegetable and flower growing



Taman Negara is a haven for outdoor pastimes such as jungle-trekking, white-water rafting, camping and fishing

KL and is the perfect escape for those seeking relaxation in a cool mountain setting. It also houses a world-class casino, a theme park and several hotels and an excellent 18-hole golf course.

In the vicinity of Kuantan, the capital of Pahang, there are tempting beaches such as the world-renowned Cherating,

most beautiful islands, is accessible by boat from Mersing or Tanjung Gemuk on the coast, as well as by air from Kuala Lumpur and Singapore. This fantasy island in the South China Sea is an irresistible retreat for sun seekers and diving enthusiasts. The Tekam Plantation Resort in Jerantut, near to Taman Negara, entices those interested in agro-tourism with its vast rubber and oil palm plantations and fruit orchards.

tourists seeking an experience of the rainforest. Special canopy walkways have been constructed to allow nature lovers a splendid view of the park surroundings. There are also elevated hides to allow for night viewing of wildlife. For the



At the Beserah fishing village buffaloes are still employed to cart fish

Terengganu

Terengganu which overlooks the South China Sea on the east coast of Malaysia is another charming holiday destination. Its long coastline is endowed with truly magical beaches of white sand and washed by clear, warm waters. It is small wonder, that this east coast paradise is renowned for activities such as beach-combing, sea sports, fishing and boat-making. Its numerous islands offer ideal getaway

as 375 kg and measure 2.5 m in length. It is a rare treat to take in the sight of the creatures laboriously



The State Museum

Despite the offshore oil and gas activities, life in Terengganu is still less hurried compared to some other Malaysian states.

This is apparent in the quaint villages as well as the towns. Kuala Terengganu is the capital town and places of interest include the State Museum, Central Market and Istana



the site of the Malaysian Handicraft Centre. Near the mouth of the Terengganu River at Pulau Duyong, you can see skilful boat builders constructing colourfully decorated vessels purely from memory. At Rusila, just outside Kuala Terengganu, visitors can watch local artisans weaving exquisite handicrafts such as baskets and mats as well as beach and fishing activities.

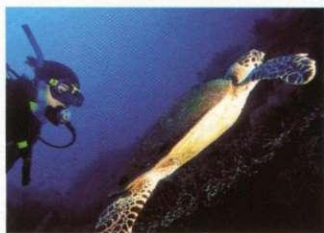
On the extreme west of the state, Tasik Kenyir, South East Asia's largest man-made lake is a major tourist attraction. The huge lake with its hundreds of islands, numerous caves, waterfalls and luxuriant tropical jungle is a paradise for a wide range of outdoor activities like fishing, swimming, canoeing, trekking, cave exploration and camping. For golfing buffs, there is a fabulous golf resort with a panoramic sweep of the lake. The Sekayu Recreational Park, west of Kuala Terengganu, is a popular picnic spot famous for its series of seven cascades making up the Sekayu waterfalls and its orchards.



A fishing village in Marang

spots for sun-worshippers and diving enthusiasts or simply for pure relaxation. Among the islands that are certain to enrapture its visitors are the marine parks of Redang, Kapas, Perhentian and Tenggol. Redang in particular offers excellent dive sites and its superb coral reefs abound with an amazing diversity of marine life.

Between May and September each year, at Rantau Abang, 60 km south of Kuala Terengganu, visitors gather to watch giant Leatherback turtles clamber ashore to lay eggs. Some of the turtles weigh as much



Taking a closer look at a turtle

digging holes in the sand to lay eggs, covering them again and heading back into the sea. This spot is acknowledged to be one of the six in the world where this rare phenomenon unfolds.



Terengganu is renowned for its fine wood-carving products

Maziah. 6 km away from the town at Chendering, is the Sutera Semai Centre, the country's first silk weaving venture which offers interesting insights into the whole process of silk-weaving. It is also



The 'floating' mosque at Kuala Ibai

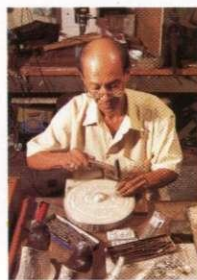
Kelantan

Kelantan is located on the north eastern corner of Peninsular Malaysia and shares a common border with Thailand in the north. The state is a veritable treasure trove of delights - rustic fishing villages, palm-fringed beaches, lush rice fields and traditional pastimes such as kite-flying and top-spinning. The people here have managed to preserve their age-old customs and traditions. Thus, Kelantan is aptly dubbed the 'Cradle of Malay Culture'.

Kota Bharu, the bustling state capital emanates an old world charm



Batik Painting



Kelantan is also famed for its skilled silversmiths

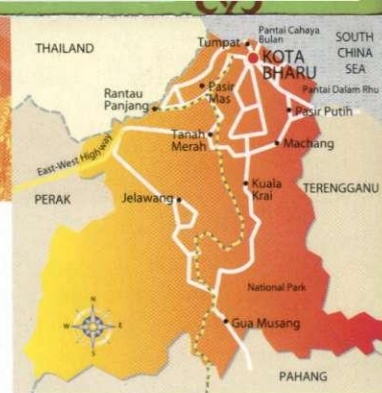
irresistible treat for shutterbugs. The colourful and lively atmosphere of the bazaar, dominated by women traders who sell a wide variety of vegetables, seafood, cakes, batik, handicrafts and preserved food is truly a sight to behold.

The state is noted for its cottage industries such as batik-printing, silverware, wood-carving and songket weaving. The Cultural Centre in the heart of the town is popular as it showcases Kelantan's rich heritage of cultures and

traditions. Here, visitors can watch skilful demonstrations of kite-flying involving the giant "wau", huge saucer-shaped tops or "gasing" that can spin non-stop for hours and enjoy the rich resonance

of the "rebana ubi", colourfully decorated giant drums. For evening entertainment, there is traditional Malay music and the "wayang kulit", a puppet show which employs a skilful combination of light and shadow play as well as "silat", the traditional Malay art of self-defence.

Kelantan has some lovely beaches in the vicinity of Kota Bharu like Pantai Cahaya Bulan (Moonlight



The beating of rebana ubi or giant drums

and offers tourists the opportunity to witness a microcosm of the unique Kelantanese way of life. The sights, sounds and colours that are authentically Kelantan can be captured at the Central Market, an



Women folk in Kelantan



Pantai Cahaya Bulan or Moonlight Beach is only a few kilometres away from Kota Bharu



Fishermen coming back from the sea

Beach), Pantai Irama (Beach of Melody), Pantai Bisikan Bayu (Beach of Whispering Breeze) and Pantai Seri Tujuh (Beach of Seven Lagoons). These beaches are as alluring as their names sound.

Sarawak

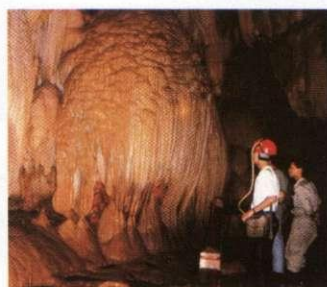
Sarawak, the largest state in Malaysia, is located on the south-western corner of Borneo. It is a land of vast primeval rainforests, majestic mountains, caves, unique flora and fauna and diverse ethnic communities. Sarawak's history is one of heroic adventure and romance, piracy and rebellion. The state came under the rule of the White Rajahs when the Sultan of Brunei made James Brooke, an English adventurer, the ruler of Sarawak in 1841 for his help in quelling a rebellion.

Administratively, Sarawak is divided into nine divisions. Kuching, the state capital which incidentally is also located in Kuching division sits on the banks of the Sarawak River, 32 km from the sea. The



River safaris are a fascinating way to discover Sarawak

Fort Margherita, named after the wife of Charles Brooke, the second White Rajah and the Astana, presently, the residence of the Governor of Sarawak. The Sunday Market or *Pasar Minggu*, where local produce is sold, is the best place to mingle with the local folk. The Sarawak Cultural Village at the foothills of the legendary Mt.



Relics uncovered at the Mulu Caves

Caves. The caves is home to millions of bats and swiftlets and witnessing the collection of guano for use as fertiliser and the hazardous task of harvesting birds' nests can be an absorbing experience.

Equally awe-inspiring are the Mulu Caves located in the Mulu National Park. These enormous caverns contain Southeast Asia's

largest cave system and other major caves which can only be described in superlatives. The spectacular Sarawak Chamber, the largest cave in the world is claimed to be able to accommodate 40 Boeing-747 aircraft. The Clear Water Cave and the Deer Cave are no less intriguing for cave explorers.

Another highlight of a holiday in Sarawak is to go on a safari up its mighty rivers like the Skrang, Lemanak and Batang Ai. Make it a point too to experience life in a longhouse, once the home of notorious headhunters.

Sarawak's traditional cottage industries and agricultural activities possess a charm of their own and



their products make memorable souvenirs. The handicrafts of fine craftsmanship include wood-carvings, beadworks, 'pua kumbu' (handwoven Iban textile), the 'ajat' baskets and sleeping mats of the Penans and sunhats of some communities. Sarawak's fine art of pottery-making has today flourished into a popular indigenous industry especially in Kuching, Miri and Sibiu. Pepper growing is also a significant economic activity in Sarawak which is noted for its high-grade black and white pepper.



Decorative vases



The Niah Caves

influence of the British is reflected in the architecture of some of its public buildings. A fine example is the Sarawak Museum, one of Asia's best, housing a fascinating collection of Bornean ethnological and archaeological artefacts. The Cat Museum, Islamic Museum, Chinese Museum, Timber Museum and Police Museum also offer interesting insights into Sarawak. Other notable attractions in the city include the

Santubong, 35 km from Kuching, is a major tourist attraction. Popularly known as the living Museum, the village is a showcase of the state's rich cultural diversity. Sarawak's magnificent caves is truly one of nature's greatest gifts. The Niah National Park is an area of major archeological significance as the oldest human remains in Southeast Asia, dating back 40,000 years, were found in its world renowned Niah



The Sarawak Cultural Village

Sabah

Sabah is located in the north-eastern tier of the island of Borneo. Overlooking the South China Sea, Kota Kinabalu, its capital, serves as the gateway to the varied attractions of the state. Known as Jesselton during the British era, it was totally destroyed during the last World War. The present day town has blossomed into a thriving commercial centre and holiday destination. A short boat-ride away takes one to the islands of Tunku Abdul Rahman Park, a haven for camping and sea



Kadazan women at a longhouse

of flora and fauna. Several hours away into the hinterland of Sandakan at Sukau, nature lovers will have a thrilling once-in-a-lifetime experience of sighting the

the colourful blend of local cultures. The tamu is where natives gather to trade in farm produce, local curios, handicraft, food and even buffaloes. Kota Belud is a favourite spot for tourists to capture this exotic occasion.

For those who are keen to taste the thrills of whitewater rafting, Sabah is the perfect destination. Its fast flowing rivers and turbulent rapids have attracted an increasing number of rafting enthusiasts. The Padas River offers a challenging and heart-stopping experience of this sport. The Kiulu River is also another



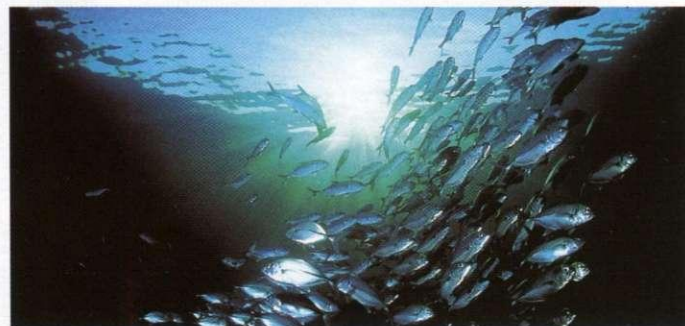
popular spot for whitewater rafting as well as wholesome family fun.

The engrossing thrill of turtle-watching can be experienced on the islands of Selingan, Bakungan Kecil and Gulisan, located approximately 40 km from Sandakan. Here, one can witness

Mount Kinabalu attracts a steady flow of climbers

sports. A 2½ hour ride from the town brings you to the 754 sq km Kinabalu Park and Mount Kinabalu, the pride of Sabah. This 4095 m peak is easily accessible and is a favourite for jungle-trekking and mountain-climbing and offers a breathtaking view of the lush surroundings. If you are lucky, you might be able to catch a glimpse of the exotic Rafflesia, the world's largest flower.

The world's largest Orang Utan Rehabilitation Centre is located at Sepilok, a 20-minute drive from the town of Sandakan. Here, one can observe first hand, these primeval apes (in their natural habitat) roam and play in non-captive breeding. Further south, in the interior of the state, lies the Danum Valley Conservation area, a lowland tropical forest endowed with an abundance



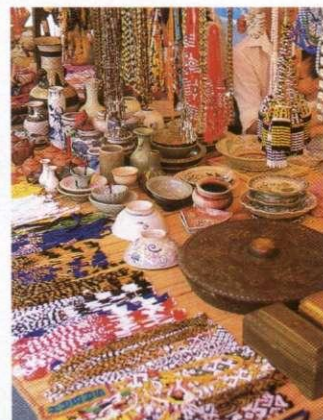
Sabah's dive sites abound with marine life

unique proboscis monkey in its natural habitat, a variety of wildlife and perhaps, the rare clouded leopard.

Sabah is an enchanting mosaic of cultural diversity with at least 31 indigenous groups with their rich cultures and interesting traditions. The tamu, a weekly open bazaar, offers a vivid glimpse into



The orang utan sanctuary at Sepilok

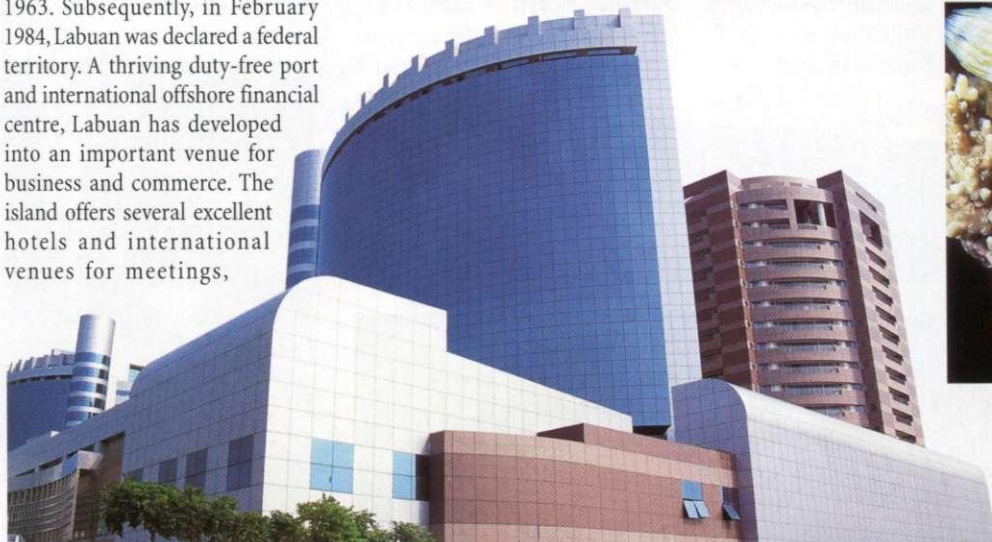


A colourful display of Sabah's native handicrafts

almost every night, especially during the peak season between July and September, turtles crawling to the beach to lay eggs. Layang-Layang, an oceanic atoll located 165 nautical miles north-west of Kota Kinabalu, is the ultimate destination for serious divers. Its 2000 m drop provides excellent wall-diving and the opportunity to see fascinating seascapes and encounter diverse species of sea creatures and corals such as turtles, manta rays and sharks. The island is also a sanctuary for numerous migratory birds.

Labuan

Labuan, located in the South China Sea, about 8 km off the coast of Sabah is a charming island port and Malaysia's only deep-water anchorage. Seen from the air, Labuan has often been likened to a star floating on a turquoise sea. Once a part of the Sultanate of Brunei, it was ceded to the British in 1846 following the discovery of rich coal deposits. Ruled by the British for 115 years, it joined the Federation of Malaysia in 1963. Subsequently, in February 1984, Labuan was declared a federal territory. A thriving duty-free port and international offshore financial centre, Labuan has developed into an important venue for business and commerce. The island offers several excellent hotels and international venues for meetings,



Labuan's Financial Park

conventions and trade exhibitions.

Places of interest in Labuan include the Botanical Garden dating back to the colonial days, the beautifully landscaped War Memorial, the Peace Park, Kampung Ayer, Labuan's traditional water village and the Chimney at Tanjung Kubong, a reminder of the old coal-mining days. For golf enthusiasts, there is the Labuan Golf & Country Club which boasts of one of the country's finest nine-hole courses. A round-island tour of Labuan will



The Peace Park Memorial is dedicated to the soldiers of World War II

take approximately an hour and a half. A duty-free shopping haven, Labuan has plenty in store for visitors looking for local and imported goods. Eating out is also a pleasure as there is a wide choice of cuisine-Western, standard local or traditional Malaysian fare, seafood, Chinese and other oriental dishes. Restaurants are open until the late hours of the night.

Labuan's crystal clear waters, ideal diving conditions all year round and a wealth



of World War II and post-war shipwrecks have made it the region's centre for wreck-diving. Expeditions can be arranged to the island's four most popular wrecks, the American, Australian, Blue Water and Cement



Longnose file fish

wrecks. If you are seeking seclusion, the outlying islands of Pulau Papan and Pulau Burong provide the right ambience and are just minutes away by speedboat.



Labuan is one of the region's top sites for wreck-diving

Malaysia At A Glance

Country The Federation of Malaysia comprises Peninsular Malaysia and the states of Sabah and Sarawak on the island of Borneo.

Geographical Location Located 7 degrees north of the Equator, Peninsular Malaysia is separated from the states of Sabah and Sarawak by the South China Sea. In the north of the peninsula is Thailand while its southern neighbour is Singapore.

Area 329,758 sq km

Population 21 million

Capital Kuala Lumpur

People Malays who make up about 57% of the population are the predominant group with Chinese, Indians and other ethnic groups making up the rest.

Language Bahasa Melayu (Malay) is the national language but English is widely spoken. The ethnic groups also speak various languages and dialects.

Religion Islam is the official religion but all other religions are practised freely.

Government Parliamentary democracy with a bicameral legislative system. The Head of State is the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong and the Head of Government is the Prime Minister.

Climate Tropical climate with warm and humid weather all year round. Temperatures range from 21° C to 32 °C. Annual rainfall varies from 2000mm to 2500mm.

History and Culture There is a strong interlink between the country's multi-racial and multicultural make-up with its history. Besides the local Malays and the native groups, immigrants from China, India, Indonesia and other parts of the world have all contributed to the multiracial composition of its population. Its interesting cultural diversity can be largely attributed to the country's long and on-going interaction with the outside world and colonial rule by the Portuguese, Dutch and the British. Consequently, the evolution of the country into a cultural melting pot is evident in the unique blend of religions, socio-cultural activities and traditions, dressing, languages and food. The country achieved independence on August 31, 1957 as the Federation of Malaysia and subsequently with the entry of Sabah and Sarawak, Malaysia was formed.

Major Holidays New Year's Day * • Hari Raya Aidil Fitri (January) * • Chinese New Year (January/February) * • Federal Territory Day (February 1) ** • Wesak Day (May) * • King's Birthday (June) • National Day (August 31) * • Deepavali (October or November) # Christmas *
Note: * National holidays ** KL & Labuan only # Except Sarawak & Labuan.

Economic Profile Manufacturing constitutes the largest single component of Malaysia's economy. Tourism and primary commodities such as petroleum, palm oil, natural rubber and timber are major contributors to its economy.

Entry Requirements Visitors to Malaysia must be in possession of a valid passport or travel document with a minimum validity of six months beyond the intended visiting period. Most nationalities do not require visas for social or business visits. For further information, please check with the nearest Malaysian diplomatic mission or Tourism Malaysia Office.

Currency The unit of currency is the Malaysian Ringgit indicated as RM. Foreign currencies can be converted at banks and money changers.

All residents and non-residents are required to complete the Travellers Declaration Form (TDF). The revised TDF has two separate sections and separate columns for residents and non-residents to declare their currencies; the blue section for the residents and the white section for the non-resident.

Residents are only required to declare in detail the exact amount of ringgit carried when they enter or leave the country only if the amount is in excess of RM1,000. They are also required to declare in detail the exact amount in foreign currency, including traveller's cheque carried, when they leave the country only if the amount exceeds the equivalent of RM10,000. Residents do not have to declare any amount of foreign currency, including traveller's cheques, carried with them when they re-enter the country. Non-residents are only required to declare in detail the exact amount of ringgit carried when they enter or leave the country only if the amount is in excess of RM1,000. As for foreign currency, including traveller's cheques, declaration in detail is required only if the amount

exceeds the equivalent of USD2,500. Residents are required to keep the TDF in their passport when they leave the country and surrender the TDF on their return journey. Non-residents are required to keep the TDF with their passport and surrender the TDF on leaving the country.

Banking Hours Most states: Mon-Fri: 9.30am - 4.00pm • Sat: 9.30am-11.30am • Sun: closed • Kedah, Kelantan & Terengganu: Sat-Wed: 9.30am - 4.00pm • Thur: 9.30am-11.30am • Fri: closed. Closed first Saturday of the month.

Post Offices Open from 8.30am to 5.00pm daily except first Saturday of the month, Sundays and public holidays. In Kedah, Kelantan and Terengganu post offices are closed on Fridays, first Saturday of the month and public holidays.

Time Eight hours ahead of GMT and 16 hours ahead of U.S. Pacific Standard Time.

Electricity Voltage is 220-240 volts A C at 50 cycles per second.

Weights and Measures Malaysia follows the metric system in weights and measures.

Telephones Local calls can be made from public phones using coins or pre-paid cards. International calls can be made from public phones with card phone facilities or at any Telekom offices.

Getting There The main gateway to Malaysia is through the new KL

Malaysia At A Glance

International Airport at Sepang located approximately 50km south of Kuala Lumpur. The Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport in Subang serves a few domestic and regional airlines. Other major international airports which serve as entry points are Penang, Kuching, Kota Kinabalu and Langkawi. The main entry point by sea to KL is at Port Klang, about 50km away from KL. Malaysia is also accessible by rail and road from Singapore and Thailand.

Getting Around Malaysia has excellent domestic air links and a well developed and effective public transportation system served by buses, taxis and trains.

Accommodation Malaysia has a wide range of accommodation at competitive rates. International standard hotels, medium and budget hotels, youth hostels and timeshare apartments are just some of the types of accommodation available. Privately operated motor-homes are also available for rental.

Do's & Don'ts When visiting Malaysia, the visitor should observe local customs and practices. Some common courtesies and customs are as follows:-

- Although handshakes generally suffice for both men and women, some Muslim ladies may acknowledge an introduction with

a gentleman with a nod of her head and smile. A handshake is only to be reciprocated if the lady offers her hand first. The traditional greeting or "salam" resembles a handshake with both hands but without the grasp. The man offers both hands, lightly touches his friend's outstretched hands, then brings his hands to his chest to mean, "I greet you from my heart". The visitor should reciprocate the "salam".

- It is polite to call before visiting a home.
- Shoes must always be removed when entering a Malaysian home.
- Drinks is generally offered to guests. It would be polite to accept.
- The right hand is always used when eating with one's hand or when giving and receiving objects.
- The right forefinger is not used to point at places, objects or persons. Instead, the thumb of the right hand with the four fingers, folded under is the preferred usage.
- Shoes must be removed when entering places of worship such as mosques and temples. Some mosques provide robes and scarves for female visitors. Taking photographs at places of worship is usually permitted but always ask for permission first.
- Toasting is not a common practice in Malaysia. The country's large Muslim population does not drink alcoholic beverages.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this publication is correct at the time of production. Tourism Malaysia is not responsible for any errors or omissions which may occur.

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